

# Habitat Happenings



News and Events from **Runge Conservation Nature Center** • September/October 2016

## QUACKING, BARKING, WHINNYING, AND HOOTING



**I**s it a duck? Is it a small dog? Is it a horse? No, it's an OWL. From the deep baritone sounds of the barred owl to the sharp hissing of the barn owl, the owls of Missouri are important to our crepuscular and nighttime symphonies. I must admit, I always perk up when I hear an owl.

Missouri has eight owls that either nest or spend some time in our state. They include the barred, barn, short-eared, long-eared, great horned, snowy, eastern screech, and the northern saw-whet owls.

Most of these owls are active in the evening and at night. They are raptors like hawks and eagles but hunt at night instead of during the day. Owls have special adaptations for hunting in the dim light of the nocturnal world.

Owls are mysterious and hard to find because of their camouflage and nocturnal habits so the best way to experience them is to listen. Each owl has its own distinctive sound. One of the more common owls I hear is the Barred owl. This bird makes a series of hoots that kind of sounds like it is saying, "Who cooks for you, who cooks for y'all?" Fall is a great time to hear this owl and others. Listen and enjoy learning about Missouri's owls during our special event on

**Friday, October 14th.**

Check out some of the details in this issue of our newsletter. It'll be a HOOT!

—Kathy Cavender,  
Nature Center Manager

# Volunteer News

Helping you connect with nature.

In every issue of this newsletter, we highlight the “milestones” that Runge Volunteers reach. These milestones recognize the number of hours an individual volunteer contributes to Runge. Volunteers lead many of the programs advertised in our newsletter. Connecting people to nature is a part of our mission and our volunteers understand that and are thrilled to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you. Look for some of the volunteer-led programs in our newsletter and sign up on the first of the month for one or two or ... let them help you discover nature!

*Saturday Hikers*

*Firearms Safety for  
Youth Hunters*

**Adventure Birding**

**Nature's Needlers**

*Design with Nature in Mind*

**DEER PROCESSING**

**Color Your Natural World**

**Midweek Trekkers**

**INTRO TO DEER HUNTING**

*Discovery Walk*

**Dutch Oven Cooking**

## Milestones

**100 hours –**

*Cameron Haake  
David Litfin*

**400 hours –**

*Dan Bernskoetter  
Laura Richardson  
Paul Winn*

**500 hours –**

*Bill Kuensting  
Annelise Schulte  
Erin Skornia*

Thank You!

## Something **BIG** is going on...

You will start to see some activity in our main exhibit area beginning this month. We are updating and replacing about a third of our exhibits. In September we will begin demolition on some walls in the Forest Habitat area of the exhibits. Our hope is to have new exhibits in place by January 2017. We are working with Taylor Studios out of Illinois to do fabrication and our MDC staff will be doing the installation.

Due to construction, parts of the exhibit area will be closed off. In addition, the aquarium will be drained and worked on. Sorry for the inconvenience but it will be worth it. Our goal is to replace all of the exhibits over the next few years and it begins this fall!

The Runge Conservation Nature Center is located one-third mile north of Hwy 50 on Hwy 179, (330 Commerce Drive), Jefferson City, Missouri. 573-526-5544 <http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center>

**MAILING ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102

**BUILDING HOURS:** Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM Thursday: 8 AM–8 PM **Closed Sunday, Monday and all State Holidays.**

**TRAIL HOURS:** Open daily 6 AM–9 PM



## Lobby Exhibit

### Watercolor Paintings by Barbara Lindsey

Barbara Lindsey is a self taught artist born and raised in Jefferson City, Missouri. As a child she loved to draw, sketch, and paint. She developed her own style at an early age and was encouraged to pursue it. Her love of art was passed down from her father who was an artist and wood carver himself.

Although versatile in medium and subject matter, her main interest has been watercolor. Her unique realistic style combines a tight compact brush stroke with loose airy ideas. Her work has become known for her attention to detail in each of her watercolor paintings. Her work has won various awards, and has been included in many national and international juried shows.

## 3D Exhibit

### Lured by Angling Ingenuity by Dean Murphy



Learn how Missourians combine their love of fishing with invention in a new exhibit about the state's angling industry. Made in the central Missouri region and statewide, examples of baits, lures, and other equipment are a fascinating look at the state's passion for fishing. Dean A. Murphy spent more than 30 years searching out Missouri-made fishing equipment. His collection includes more than 2,000 pieces of tackle, donated to the Department of Conservation. View a sampling of Mr. Murphy's collection at Runge.



## West Wing Exhibit

### Hidden Treasures of a Natural Community by Lance Merry

Enjoy a photographic journey exploring natural history treasures off the beaten path with photographer, Lance Merry. Within this exhibit, one can dive underwater to witness fish interactions rarely seen, wade through bogs to see the best of our orchid fauna, and muddy their boots to discover the complicated lives of salamanders.

Merry is a self-taught photographer and naturalist. He traveled across Missouri during the 2013 field season photographing fish for the *Fishes of Missouri* 3rd Edition.



# September Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



Registration begins **Thursday, September 1st**, for the September programs.

Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

## Little Ones

### Nature's Little Packages

Learn about the many shapes and sizes of seeds, what they need to grow, how they get from here to there, and what they are used for.

### Babes in the Woods

September 16 • Friday • 10–11 AM  
September 27 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM  
*Registration required (ages 0-2 years)*

### Little Acorns

September 9 • Friday • 10–11 AM  
September 21 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM  
*Registration required (ages 3-6 years)*

### Little Acorns PLUS

September 22 • Thursday • 6–7 PM  
*Registration required. For this program, you need one child in the 0-2 age range and one child in the 3-6 age range.*



## Teens for Conservation

### A Glade Walk

September 24 • Saturday • 10 AM–3 PM  
*Registration required (ages 13-17 years)*  
Prickly Pear Cactus, Tarantulas, Collared lizards, Poverty grass... These are just a few animals and plants in Missouri that depend on dry, rocky ecosystems known as glades. Meet at Runge and we will take you to Painted Rock Conservation Area in Osage County to discover this not-so-familiar ecosystem. Be prepared to hike off trail where it will be rocky and rugged (glades are like that), so wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Bring a daypack with a water bottle and a lunch. Be ready to explore – you will be Glad about Glades! – if you come.

A permission form is required and can be picked up at the nature center or give us your email when you register and we can send one to you.

## Adults

### River Bluffs Audubon Society: Birdwatching and Ecotourism in Honduras

September 8 • Thursday • 6:30–7:30 PM  
*No registration required.*

Katinka Domen and William Orellana have built a birding and adventure tour company, Beaks and Peaks, based on values of sustainability, authenticity and diversity in Gracias Lempira, Honduras. They will share the beauty of their country—its forests, rivers, mountains, flowers, insects, and more. Please join us for this rare opportunity to learn about their work in Honduras.

### Color Your Natural World

September 13 • Tuesday • 1:30–2:30 PM

*Registration required.*

Fall migration begins this month and we will explore this vibrant wonder of nature. We'll color and gain insight about monarch butterflies, songbirds, and waterfowl leaving Missouri for warmer regions. Enjoy relaxing and learning with us. Coloring sheets and pencils are provided.



### Nature's Needlers: The Seasons of Nature

September 15 • Thursday • 10:30 AM–Noon **OR** 6–7:30 PM  
*Registration required.*

Are mussels a mystery to you? Learn to recognize the more common ones and find out the part they play in our streams and rivers. The mussel is the ninth block in The Seasons of Nature series.

# September Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature is sharing with you.



## Midweek Trekkers and Hiking Club

September 24 • Saturday • 7:30 AM–  
September 25 • Sunday • 5:30 PM  
*Registration required.*

Celebrate the tallgrass prairie! Hikers from both Midweek Trekkers and the Saturday group will combine and travel to **Prairie State Park** on the western side of our state (Mindenmines, MO) to attend their annual Prairie Jubilee. Take part in activities such as a living history loop. Listen to live music and the sounds of the prairie. Take a ride out to see the bison and enjoy trying some bison for lunch. This will be an overnight because of the distance. Any additional hikes on Sunday will be at the discretion of the leaders and participants

A block of rooms is being held at the Super 8 in Lamar, MO. Call 471/682-6888 for reservations. The rate will be \$67 per room and these rooms will be held until September 9th. When calling, refer to Runge Nature Center and if you have questions, Jeanette is the contact person. Breakfast is furnished and the rooms are no smoking. Two queen beds are in each room. There is no extra charge for extra people.

Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. All other expenses will be the responsibility of the participant.

## All Ages

### What's Going On?:

#### A Log's Life

September 10 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM  
*No registration required.*

"Deep in a forest, a great Oak tree stands..." Explore Runge's century white oak trees from acorn to decaying log through lobby and trail activities.

## Mixed Age Groups

### Adventure Birding: Night Life in the City

September 10 • Saturday • 6–9 PM  
*Registration required (ages 11 and older, children accompanied by an adult)*

We are going out on the town tonight to find birds that are active at dusk in Jefferson City. Transportation will be provided as we explore the city for Chimney swifts, Common nighthawks, owls, and other feathered friends. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Meet at the nature center.

### Half-day Discovery Walk

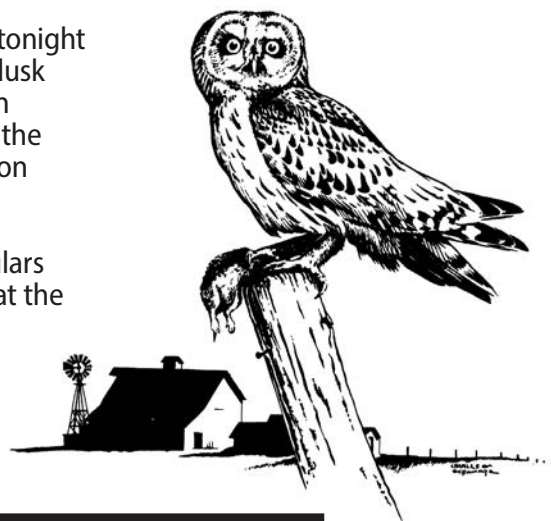
September 17 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon

*Registration required (ages 8 and older, children accompanied by an adult)*

Rise and shine! We are off for a morning adventure to Hart Creek Conservation Area, located in Boone County. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. *Trail Length:* 2 miles.

*Terrain:* Steep inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots.

*Focus:* Cory Gregg, MDC, Resource Forester, will join us as we learn about trees.



# OWLS

## Did You KNOW?

- Barn Owls swallow their prey whole—skin, bones, and all—and they eat up to 1,000 mice each year.
- A group of owls is called a parliament.

# October Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



Registration begins **Saturday, October 1st**, for the October programs.

Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

## Little Ones

### Good-Night Owl

Owl is trying to get rest. Why? Is it really good night for owl or is owl up for the night? Join us this month to learn about Missouri owl habitats and survival senses.

### Babes in the Woods

October 7 • Friday • 10–11 AM

October 18 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM

*Registration required. (ages 0-2 years)*

### Little Acorns

October 11 • Tuesday • 10-11 AM

October 21 • Friday • 10–11 AM

*Registration required. (ages 3-6 years)*

### Little Acorns PLUS

October 27 • Thursday • 6–7 PM

*Registration required. For this program, you need one child in the 0-2 age range and one child in the 3-6 age range.*

## Adults

### Discover Nature Women: Dutch Oven Cooking

October 8 • Saturday • 1–4 PM

*Registration required.*

Dutch oven cooking is a wonderful way to be outdoors whether it be in your backyard or in a campground. Slow down and learn how to cook in this versatile and historic way. Participants will help us make it all, from the main dish (wild game anyone?) to desserts (think wild berries). Runge will provide all ingredients, cookware, and expertise. You bring interest, enthusiasm, and an appetite!

### Color Your Natural World

October 12 • Wednesday • 1:30–2:30 PM

*Registration required.*

Of the 18 owl species native to North America, eight live in Missouri or visit here. Share an afternoon hearing about their varied appearances and antics as we color. Leaders will provide sheets and pencils or you may bring your own drawing tools.

### River Bluffs Audubon Society: Great Horned Owls

October 13 • Thursday • 6:30–7:30 PM

*No registration required.*

River Bluffs Audubon Society will be hosting Mark Glenshaw from St. Louis, who will be speaking on the owls in Forest Park, St. Louis. He has observed and documented many predatory attempts as well as seen the owls feed themselves and their many owlets. He will cover different owl behaviors via photos and video.

### The Hikers

October 15 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM

*Registration required.*

Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Lake Ozark State Park**, located in Camden County. We will explore the Hidden Springs and the Rocky Top trails. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. *Trail Length: 4.5 miles. Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots. Notes: Bring bug repellent and your lunch.*

### Designs with Nature in Mind: Leaf Prints

October 15 • Saturday •

9:30–11:30 AM **OR** 1–3 PM

*Registration required. (Women)*

Enjoy the variety of Missouri leaves this fall as you create a work of art. These are not your grade school crayon rubbings. Learn how to make leaf prints with paints and a press and of course, *real* leaves. Your finished designs will be suitable to use for the cover of a card or as a framed print.

### Midweek Trekkers

October 19 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM

*Registration required.*

Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center, drive to **Pomme de Terre** in Hickory/Polk County and hike one or two of the best trails. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. *Trail Length: 5 miles. Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots. Notes: Bring lunch.*

### Nature's Needlers: The Seasons of Nature

October 20 • Thursday •

10:30 AM–Noon **OR** 6–7:30 PM

*Registration required.*

Be thankful for bats! These little mammals eat their weight in mosquitoes. Learn about bat facts as we complete the tenth block in The Seasons of Nature series.



# October Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



## All Ages

### What's Going On?:

#### Seeds, Seeds, Seeds

October 1 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM  
*No registration required.*

Fall is a great time to observe seeds of all kinds, from the large trees - acorns - to the tiny seeds of the milkweed plant. Take a walk to collect and spread seeds with your feet like the animals do. Sort seeds at an activity table. Look at seeds under a microscope. Enjoy a seed craft.

### Special Event:

#### Missouri Owls

October 14 • Friday • 6–8:30 PM  
*No registration required.*

How do they See? Hear? Hunt? Eat? Find the answers to these curious questions when you join us at our special event. This event will feature **live owls** from Missouri University Raptor Rehabilitation program.

### Feed the Animals

October 28 • Friday • 1–1:30 PM  
*No registration required.*

The animals are hungry. Join us and watch as we feed the snakes, aquarium fish, and snapping turtles.

### What's Going On?:

#### Spooktacular Nature!

October 29 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM  
*No registration required.*

Spiders, Snakes, Scorpions. Bats. Owls. All are spooky to some people and all are spectacular in nature. Meet a few of these curious animals through various discovery tables, books, and crafts.

## Mixed Age Groups

### Half-Day Discovery Hike

October 22 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon  
*Registration required (ages 8 and older, children accompanied by an adult)*

Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Pinnacles Natural Area**, located in Boone County. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. *Trail Length:* 1.5 miles. *Terrain:* Steep inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots. *Focus:* Leaf rubbings.

### Firearms Safety for Youth Hunters

October 22 • Saturday • 9:30–11:30 AM  
*Registration required (ages 6-10 year old and accompanied by an adult)*

Although not a hunter education course, this program can help you make sure your youth are safe during the hunting season. We'll cover the commandments of firearm safety, safe methods for carrying a firearm, and tree stand safety.

### Intro to Deer Hunting

October 22 • Saturday • 1–4 PM  
*Registration required (ages 6 and older, children accompanied by an adult)*  
Ever wished you knew how to hunt deer? We will go over the basics of deer hunting for beginners from tags to scouting and from clothing to hunting methods.

### Deer Processing

November 5 • Saturday • 1–4 PM  
*Registration required (ages 6 and older, children accompanied by an adult)*  
Going deer hunting? Then join us at the nature center to learn how to skin and process the deer you harvest this year. We'll show you techniques, safety tips, and answer any questions you have about do-it-yourself processing. *Registration begins on October 15 for this program.*

## Scout Packs

Get outside and explore.

### Cub Scout Packs

Runge Conservation Nature Center is happy to offer assistance in meeting requirements for some nature-related scout badges. We have a variety of scout packs available with activities and information to assist you in your efforts. Please contact Becky at 573-526-5544 ext. 3408 for more information or to reserve one of the following packs.

**Tiger Adventure Pack:** Backyard Jungle/Tigers in the Wild

**Bear Adventure Pack:** Fur, Feathers, and Ferns

**Wolf Adventure Pack:** Paws on the Path

**Webelos Adventure Pack:** Into the Woods/Walkabout

**Webelos Adventure Pack:** Into the Wild

October 14  
6-8:30PM



# How do they . . . See? Hear? Hunt? Eat?

These are curious questions and you can find the answers throughout our newsletter AND at our Owl Event on Friday, October 14th. This event will feature live owls from the Missouri University Raptor Rehabilitation program.